

Message Text

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 EA-06 SCA-01 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SR-02

ORM-01 AID-05 FDRE-00 IO-10 VO-03 /078 W

----- 123021

O 011447Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9075

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AEMG

SUBJECT: RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REF: STATE 97854

1. FIRST APPOINTMENT OBTAINABLE WITH AMBASSADOR OLISEMEKA, DIRECTOR MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AMERICA DEPARTMENT, WAS MAY 1, AT WHICH TIME CHARGE MADE DETAILED PRESENTATION OF ORAL DEMARCHE CONTAINED REFTEL.

2. OLISEMEKA AGREED VIETNAM SITUATION IS GREAT HUMAN TRAGEDY BUT SAID HE HAD HEARD REPORTS VIET CONG HAVE BEEN WARMLY RECEIVED IN SAIGON AND HAVE NOT ENGAGED IN REPRISALS AGAINST SOUTH VIETNAMESE. CHARGE SAID OUR INFORMATION IS INCOMPLETE AND SOMETIMES CONFLICTING, SOME REPORTS DESCRIBING PEACEFUL V.C. ENTRY INTO CERTAIN AREAS AND OTHER REPORTS SPEAKING OF KILLINGS AND OTHER ACTS OF REPRISAL. CHARGE CONCLUDED THAT UNTIL IT IS CLEAR JUST HOW V.C. AND NEW VIETNAM REGIME WILL BEHAVE TOWARD FORMER ENEMIES IN SOUTH VIETNAM, VIETNAMESE REFUGEES HAVE LEGITIMATE CAUSE TO FEAR THAT THEIR LIVES AND PERSONAL SAFETY WOULD BE IN JEOPARDY IF THEY RETURN TO VIETNAM. OLISEMEKA UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED.

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3. OLISEMEKA SAID IN RESPONSE TO DEMARCH THAT HE DOUBTED VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WOULD BE COMING AS FAR AFIELD AS NIGERIA AND SUSPECTED THEY WOULD WANT TO REMAIN CLOSER TO SOUTHEAST ASIA, IN AN AREA AND CULTURAL SURROUNDING MORE FAMILIAR TO THEM. NEVERTHELESS, FMG APPRECIATED THE MAGNITUDE OF HUMAN TRAGEDY INVOLVED; FMG HAS ALWAYS COOPERATED WITH INTERNATIONAL RELIEF AND REFUGEE AGENCIES AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO. WITH REGARD TO SPECIFIC PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN DEMARCHE, OLISEMEKA SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO GIVE THE MATTER STUDY, AND HE REQUESTED THE SUBSTANCE OF THE DEMARCHE IN AN AIDE-MEMOIRE TO FACILITATE SUCH STUDY.

4. WE HAVE PREPARED AIDE-MEMOIRE AND WILL REPORT ANY FURTHER REACTION.

CROSBY

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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